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PATENT  
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**MAMMALIAN IAP GENE FAMILY, PRIMERS, PROBES  
AND DETECTION METHODS**

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**Cross Reference to Related Applications**

82 - This application is a continuation of U.S.S.N. 09/011,356, filed  
February 4, 1998 (now <sup>U.S. Patent NO. 6,656,704</sup> ~~pending~~), which is a U.S. National Phase application of  
10 PCT/IB/96/01022, filed August 5, 1996, and published in English under PCT  
article 21(2), which claims benefit from U.S.S.N. 08/576,956, filed December 22,  
1995 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,156,535), which is a continuation-in-part of U.S.S.N.  
08/511,485, filed August 4, 1995 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,919,912), all of which  
are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

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**Background of the Invention**

The invention relates to apoptosis.

20 There are two general ways by which cells die. The most easily  
recognized way is by necrosis, which is usually caused by an injury that is severe  
enough to disrupt cellular homeostasis. Typically, the cell's osmotic pressure is  
disturbed and, consequently, the cell swells and then ruptures. When the cellular  
contents are spilled into the surrounding tissue space, an inflammatory response  
often ensues.

25 The second general way by which cells die is referred to as apoptosis, or  
programmed cell death. Apoptosis often occurs so rapidly that it is difficult to  
detect. This may help to explain why the involvement of apoptosis in a wide  
spectrum of biological processes has only recently been recognized.